Numb. 26

THE OBSERVATOR.

Instructions concerning Electing of Members. Of Courtiers, &c.

From Saturday July the 18th, to Wednesday July the 22d, 1702.

Country-m. I Find by the *London* News that the Elections of *Southwark*, St. *Albans*, &c. are over, and therefore, Sir, I would beg the favour of you to proceed in your Discourse concerning the *Qualification* of Members. Your Directions in this Point is very necessary, for I never found such a Faction in Elections as at this time.

Obj. Courtiers are the most Dangerous Men in the House of Commons. But I know I must not be too bold on this Subject, least flying too near the Court Candle, I should burn my Wings; but I hope they won't be angry with me if I give you the Opinion of a Courtier in the Case, I mean the late Marquis of *Hallifax* in his Cautions concerning the Chusing of Members to serve in Parliament.

Concerning *Military* Officers in the House, he says, pag. 26. 'That *Military* Officers are 'out of their true Element when they are mis-'placed in a House of Commons.

'The very Habit, in some Cases, Recom-'mendeth, or giveth Offence; if the Judges up-'on the Bench should, instead of their Furrs, 'which signify Gravity, and bespeak Respect, 'be Cloathed like the Jockeys at *New-market*, 'or wear Boots and Steenkirks, they would 'not in Reality have less Law, but Mankind 'would be so struck with this unusual Object, 'that it would be a great while before they 'could think it possible to receive Justice from 'Men so accoutred.

'It is to some Degree the same thing in this 'Case, such Martial Habits, Blue Coats, Red 'Stockings, &c. make them look very unlike 'Grave Senators; one would almost swear they 'were Creatures Apart, and of a Differing 'Species from the rest of the Body.

'In former times, when only the Reliant 'Shopkeeper was to Represent his Corporati-'on (which, by the way, is the Law still at 'this day) the *Military* Looks of one of these 'Sons of *Mars*, would have stared the Quaking 'Member down again to his Burrough.

'Now the Number of them is so encreased, 'that the Peaceable part of the House may 'Lawfully swear they are in fear of their Lives 'from such an awful Appearance of Men of 'War. It maketh the Room look like a 'Guard-House by such an ill suited mixture.

'An Officer is to give up his Liberty to 'Obey Orders, and it is necessarily incident to 'his Calling, that he should do so.

'A Member of Parliament is Originally to 'be *tender of his own Liberty*, that other Men 'may the better *trust* him with theirs.

Thus far my Lord *Hallifax*'s Opinion concerning *Military Members*, or a Parliament *Militant*, which looks so much like the times of *Noll*, that I wonder how any true *Churchman* can give a Vote for an Officer.

I shall farther, give you this Lords Opinion concerning *Civil Officers* sitting in the House, says he, 'Sure no Man hath such a 'plentiful spring of Thought, as that all that 'floweth from it, is too much to be apply'd 'to the Business of Parliament.

'It is not less sure, that a Member of Parli-'ament, of all others, ought not to be exempt-'ed from this Rule, That no Man should 'serve two Masters.

'It doth so split a Mans Thoughts, that no 'Man can know how to make a fitting Distri-'bution of them to two such Differing Capa-'cities.

'It exposeth Men to be suspected, and temp-'ted more than is convenient for the publick 'service, or for the mutual good opinion of one 'another; which there ought to be in such an 'Assembly.

Country-m. I have often wonder'd how some of those Courtiers who had not above 500 *l.* a Year Sallary could spend twice that Sum at an Election, notwithstanding we have had such frequent Elections; it's a meer Riddle to me how these Men live, and why they make such a stir to get into the House of Commons.

Obj. You are unacquainted with the manner of their living, they have *Ways* and *Means* by being Members which they never tell you of when they come to be Elected. Perhaps at that time they'll tell you of *Liberty* and *Property*, and how bravely they'll Defend it in the House; when, God knows, they have no *Liberty* nor *Property* of their own, but are Slaves by place, and are not Free Agents like the rest of Mankind? Do you Question how these Men live and get money? I'l tell you in one single Instance, which may serve you as an Argument from matter of Fact, always to make your Interest against such Courtiers.

A Collector of Customs in one of our chief Trading Ports, who was also a Member of Parliament, was detected of being concerned in Trade and Shipping, contrary to Act of Parliament, as also of disposing of Narrow and Clipt Money, whether for his *own Profit*, or the *Interest of the Government*, I'l give you leave to Judge by the Abstract of some Letters I here show you, which he writ to a Person, then Manager of the Revenue in his Absence.

Dec. 4th, 1693. *A Receipt for which towards paying a second Expence for the Ship* Betty *Privateer, received by Capt.* E—— *upon Acc. of the forementioned Collector.*

7th, *Ditto. As to the* Betty *Privateer, you must pay my share till she can Sail.*

Several other Letters were written which give an Account of his being concerned in a Glass-House.

March 30. 1695. *I hope Mr.* B—— *has Paid Mr.* H—— *of* Sturbridge, *for the Clay, and if not let it be done forthwith; Mr.* G—— *asking me for it. I hope the Act for Glass-Bottles will take place, and the Cole: If so, 'twill be a great advantage to us, because the Glass-Houses here, and elsewhere, that have Cole Water-born, must, and will lay down, since they cannot Work so Cheap as us. We shall*

have

have the Inland Trade much to our selves, therefore rest satisfy'd with as many Bottles as you can at present.

May 2d. 96. *Remember about the fourth of* May *to buy bad Silver by the Ounce, or else* 3 s. *or* 4 s. *in the Pound for* Broad Money, *the People will give. Be sure Cull out all the* Broad Money, *and keep it till I come home to order it, not letting any Body know it. Mind what I now say to you, I mean People will give bad* Silver, *and small Clipt, for Broad* Money, *as they do here,* 20 s *bad, for* 16 s *broad and passable* Money.

In another Letter, *My Service to Mr.* B—— *you may acquaint him, if has any bad* Silver Money, *now is the time to be rid of it.*

Octob. the 29th, 1696. *We have made a Vote that Clipt* Money, *and Hammer'd* Silver Money, *shall go by Weight, at* 5 s. 2 d. *by the Ounce betwixt* Man *and* Man, *and in* Taxes, *and the* Mint, *for* 5 s. 8 d. *by the Ounce as now; therefore keep this to your self, and get what weighty Hammer'd* Money *you can, which we may make the* 8 d. *advantage of: Mind this.* And notwithstanding all these ways and means of getting Money, the said Collectors Account *Jan.* 3. $1\frac{622}{700}$, stood as below.

	l.	*s.*	*d.*	
Debtor.	43519	19	3	$\frac{1}{2}$
Creditor.	30851	14	6	$\frac{1}{4}$
The Ballance.	12668	4	9	$\frac{1}{4}$
	43519	19	3	$\frac{1}{2}$

A *Privy-Seal* appears to Discharge the said Collector of 2000 *l.* of the abovesaid Ballance.

By all this you may see, Sir, what the Advantage of an Officer is in the House of Commons, and how truly he Represents the People that sent him thither. What can be the meaning of the 2000 *l.* discharg'd by a Privy Seal, but *Secret Service?* Is it any other than a Bribe? Why not every Member 2000 *l.* as well as this Collector?

Country-m. I hope this Collector has not the Impudence to pretend any more to be Elected after the Detection of his Evil Practices.

Obs. Yes, yes, he now stands Candidate for a Burrough in Opposition to one of the best Members that ever sat in the House of Commons.

Country-m. If Newgate should ever happen to be Incorporated, he would make a fit Representative for that Burrough, where *Felons, Pick-pockets, Cut-purses, Clippers, Coiners, Pirates* and all sorts of *Villians* are the Electors. In good truth, Sir, you have by this Instance taken my Stomach quite off from such Courtiers; no one of them shall ever Represent us, if I can help it.

Obs. Another sort of Men I would have you Oppose, *viz.* The *Sons* of *Noblemen*, or any that have the least Appearance of sitting at any time hereafter in the House of Lords. The Lord *Hallifax*, whom I before quoted, may be a sufficient Argument against it: Who was in the House of Commons a strenuous Asserter of the Peoples Rights, and as great an Opposer of the Priviledges of the Commons in the House of Lords. Many more Instances hereof might be given, which for the sake of Brevity shall be omitted; many Difficulties happen to the *English* Nation by the Removal of Members from the lower to the upper House; they having Sat in the House of Commons, are acquainted with the *Customs* and *Usage*, as well as with the Members of that House, and therefore the better know how to make a Party. If they are guilty of any Crime or Misdemeanour, the Crime is removed with the Person, and they are try'd by their Peers in another Capacity than when they became Criminals.

Such as are *Spend-Thrifts* of their own Estates, will be prodigal of yours; those that profusely spend what others have gotten for them, will be lavish of what you have gotten for your selves. There are none so fit to be concerned in Expences, as those that know the Difficulty of getting. You must Consider the *House of Commons*, as the Heads of all the Families of Commoners in *England*, and you must consider your selves as their Children, and they ought to have Paternal Care of your Inheritance. The whole Cash in the Nation is as it were deposited into one common Stock, of which they are Cash-keepers, and must so mannage it, as always to have a Fund in reserve, in Case of Publick Extremity. They must not, like Foolish *Spend-Thrifts*, waste the *Present Cash*, in hopes of *Future Gain*; nor must they Ease their Favourite Children, in laying the Burden of the Taxes on others. There is no Elder Brother in the State, all have the same Right to their Liberties, and must not be Taxed by unequal Proportions thro' Favour or Affection. A *Spend-Thrift* will never Consider these things, but will raise Taxes shall take off the Skins of some, when the *Fleeces* of others are hardly touch'd.

A *Miser* in the House is equally as bad as a *Spendthrift*. He that makes Money his God, will let his Country go to the Devil before he will raise Funds to support its Honour and Reputation; the narrowness of his Soul is incapable of receiving Notions of Publick Good. He lives within himself, and never looks Abroad into the concerns of the Nation. Taxes are no more then a *Præmium* paid for *Insuring* our *Country*, our *Laws* and *Liberties*, and this the greatest *Miser* will do in his *Shipping* and *Cargo*. But when the *Publick Wants* require *speedy Supplies*, how backward are they in raising of *Money*, as if their *Private Interest* were preferable to the *Publick Good?* And let me tell you, There is no one in the House under a juster Suspicion of *Bribery*, than is a *Miser*. For a *Covetous Man* will refuse no Offer of Profit. He's never out of his Way where Money is to be got; and if his God presides in St. *Stephen's* Chappel, that will be as convenient a Place for Worship as the *Royal Exchange*, the *Auri Sacra fames* has been the Ruin of many People. The *Jews* are a dreadful Instance hereof, and yet even in their *Fugitive* and *Vagabond* State, do they retain their Covetous humour: I am not for loading the People with unnecessary Charges, but to let a Nation *Sink* for want of a *Necessary Support* of reasonable Supplies, is making Good the Country Proverb, *loosing a Hog for a half Pennyworth of Tarr.*

ADVETISEMENTS.

ALL Ladies and Gentlewomen, That are desirous to Learn to Speak without Pedantry, Latine, French, or High-Dutch Fluently, according to Grammar-Rules, and to understand a Classical Author, and can but spare two Hours a Week, may Faithfully be Taught by Mr. *Switerda*, or his Assistant, at Mr. *Fowses* House, in *Golden-Leg Court*, in *Cheapside*, next to the Feather Tavern, every *Tuesday, Thursday*, and *Saturday*, and *Mondays, Wednesdays*, and *Fridays*, at his House in *Arundal-street*, next Door above the *Temple* passage, every one is to stay no longer than an Hour, and is to Pay according to his Quality, by the great or by the Quarter; and when the Year is expir'd, and they are not compleated in the Latine Tongue, he is to teach them Gratis. In the Evening he teacheth Abroad, where Gentlemen and Ladies will appoint him at their Houses, or at a Tavern. Grammatical and Historical Cards, are to be had at his House, and a little Grammar in three Sheets of Paper.

QUoniam hoc perverso seculo, Adolescentes tam Nobiles quam ignobiles tot annos solo Latinitatis studio, ne dicam aliis detinentur, et multi, multi autem imo vero plurimi a Studiis plane deterrentur, ipsaq; Musa' cum Suis contemptui et pro nihilo habentur. *Christophorus de Switerda*, Nobilis Serenissimi Regis Prussia, singulari in hoc Regnum affecta commotus, offert non pedanticam, sed perspicuam juxta ac facilem methodum, quam biennii spatio ultra triginti pueri ad tantam Lingua Latina perfectionem, possint perduci ut non modo Classicos Authores leviores sed et explicare cum quocunq; Latine, & Gallice, Sermocinari valeant. Habitat in Vico Vulgo Vocato *Arundal-Street*.

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